

Mr. YOUNG'S
R E P O R T

ON THE ATTEMPTS MADE BY THE
USURPERS OF THE PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY,

TO DESTROY THE
BRITISH SETTLEMENT,

FOUNDED ON TILGATE FOREST, SUSSEX, FOR THE SELF-SUPPORT AND
REFORM OF THE DESTITUTE AND CRIMINAL POOR,

AND

ON THE DELINQUENCY OF THE USURPERS, AND THEIR
UTTER SUBVERSION OF THAT SOCIETY, AS TO ALL ITS
ORIGINAL PURPOSES, AND AS TO ANY REAL BENEFITS
TO THE COMMUNITY.

L O N D O N :

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Mr. YOUNG's

R E P O R T.

THE high interest which the Public, throughout the kingdom, have taken in the success of an Institution which, on the basis of experience, proposes a reform and renovation in the condition of the poor, the prevention of crimes, and removal of burthens, demands an early report. At the same time the singular circumstances of its eventful history are not a little difficult to explain, in a brief and simple view. It would indeed be trivial to relate that a ditch is dug as a boundary to a tract of forest land, and a rough cottage begun for some workmen and their tools, were it not in contemplation of those interesting objects which the design involves, and which must give a value to the smallest advances leading to these objects.

The ground has abundance of stone, brick-clay, rich loam, and fine sand.

The soil is excellent for culture; and wood both for building and firing abounds in the adjoining forests. A fence remains to be made round the land, to effect which a contribution is opened in oak staves as an article of use. A rill of excellent water bounds one extremity of the land; and the owner has con-

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sented

sented to add a portion of ground on the other side this rill, that the Settlement may have the stream within itself. It will be easy here to make at once a fine reservoir for domestic purposes, and an excellent fish-pond, which may afford a valuable and cheap supply of provisions.

Would to God I could continue this narrative of proceedings on Tilgate Forest, report the further progress of industry and reform, and forbear the following details!

The history of the undertaking has afforded a miniature representation of the progress of empires—a foundation, rise, prosperity, and decay. It has been the theatre of intrigues, torn by convulsions, undergone a revolution, suffered a schism: it is now in a state of convulsion. These circumstances have endangered the very existence of a work dear to the hearts of all men. The events, crowded thick upon each other, demand a succinct recital; but to detail them would far exceed the limits of this Report. I must here, except briefly touching on the outline, confine myself to A DETAIL OF THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAVE OCCASIONED THE DELAY OF THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT, AND TO SUCH DISCUSSION AS MAY TEND TO REMOVE THE OBSTACLES IN FUTURE.

As a Reporter I am not disinterested, but my interest lies in being faithful; if I deviate from truth, there are many who will be able, and ready enough, to convict me.

Since its commencement, in September 1788, this plan has appeared in three distinct establishments. These are, the Philanthropic Society, the Asylum for Industry, and the British Settlement.

It



It is well known that Praise is the parent of Envy, and that things admired, are also coveted: the praise and admiration attached to this Institution in its first stage, were of the highest kind, and they produced their natural effects in a proportionate degree.

To these circumstances it is to be attributed, that as soon as the plan I had formed became the favourite of the public, its honours and promised advantages tempted numbers to meditate a scheme for their acquisition.

This design was favoured by the form of a Society which I had given to a plan that was my own. My design was to organise a Constitution for perpetuating the work; but, so rapid was its success, that, in the midst of the severest labours, and in a moment of affliction, the hand of depredation laid hold upon it, under the name of the Society, and overturned all I had done, and all I had contemplated to do, as to that local establishment.

I lost the funds and the work I had formed; but I had not lost my plan. I began a new foundation, and formed a new fund. The invaders of the first regarded the second as a rival: they opposed and destroyed it. It was the Asylum for Industry, situated at Wallworth. It employed one hundred and ten persons, of whom were many reformed adult criminals of both sexes—fourteen trades were established. The whole plan consisted of stages that could only succeed to each other in a progression. Although the first stage was usurped, and the second destroyed, the third was no way affected. The experience was gained, and the facts established for which the prior stages were requisite. The third stage was a settlement on waste land, remote from the metropolis, embracing the two former, and unfolding, on a larger scale, the whole extensive plan

of which the former were mere introductory sketches. This is the British Settlement, defined and promised in my Reports of the Philanthropic Society: this also, regarded as a rival, the invaders of the first work now seek to destroy.

The object of this Report is said to be to explain the causes of the delay of the British Settlement, and to remove them. That is my immediate duty, as pledged and responsible for the undertaking. In pursuing that object, others will also be fulfilled, to which the minds of some readers will be directed. I shall have to defend myself as a calumniated man. The British Settlement is delayed by the attempts intended to destroy it—the chief instrument of those attempts has been a calumny against me—that calumny I shall answer; I call it a calumny, because its authors shrink from it. In this Report I am necessarily an accuser—I do not calumniate, for I avow and support my charge. I must report facts: these facts are criminal, I cannot alter their nature—the duty of a Reporter constitutes me then an accuser.

The whole complexion, and every act and circumstance of the contest, and of the proceedings on either side, serve to demonstrate not merely that the calumny against me is false—not only that none of its partisans ever believed it true—not only that it is a weapon of malignancy; BUT THAT IT IS A FABRICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF WARDING OFF A MUCH HEAVIER AND A JUST CHARGE AGAINST THEMSELVES.

It will surprise none but such as are ignorant of the human heart to find that the imposing aspect these men have assumed, and their clamour, have been the mere ebullitions of conscious guilt seeking shelter for themselves in an outcry against me.

It

It is not for me to be diverted, by their stratagems, from the path of my own duty; and I am to endeavour to recall the public attention from the shadow to the substance. Let me then, for the moment, suppose their calumny against me true, and that there existed a "deficiency in my accounts of the Philanthropic Society"—it will be fair to enquire if that charge, admitted, amounts to a justification of their own conduct to the public or to me. If they have made a charge against me, an instrument of a criminal purpose to the public; if they have employed that instrument in a criminal manner; and if the crimes for which a charge against me is a pretext and an instrument, be of abundantly greater magnitude than the fault imputed to me, it will be granted that they could not derive impunity from my errors; nor ought they to be allowed, by a clamour and outrage against me, to draw attention from themselves. I wish not to avail myself of any such subterfuge. In reporting their crimes, I do not seek to evade a charge against myself—I shall answer that in its place. In the mean time I am to pursue the order and the purpose of my report.

The first stage of my plan had been seized on by a concurrence of events, related pretty fully in the Third Report of the Philanthropic Society. They culled, from those events, materials to form an instrument of destruction, to remain *in terrorem*, and be employed against me, only should I ever attempt to revive the plan they wished to monopolize. After I had begun the Asylum for Industry, Mr. John Harman vauntingly asked me if I thought I could succeed against the list of "*respectable*" names that would oppose me? Mr. George Adams, with a view to intimidate me, hinted at the weapons they had prepared for my ruin.

As

As soon as the Asylum for Industry began to advance, they seriously took the alarm, and its downfall was decreed. A number of families, and unhappy objects from the paths of vice, or from the most abject misery, were in the enjoyment of the comforts of industry: adults, here, were the subjects of a reform as perfect as children had been at Hackney—numbers more were every day applying—and every week several additions were made. All this was to be destroyed at the shrine of these men's interest or their vanity.

Destruction of the Asylum for Industry.

A DELIBERATE and studied purpose more revolting to humanity imagination cannot conceive. All the misery in the world, except in the children who were to come under their own care, they viewed without compassion, and persecuted without remorse. The wretched abandoned female, the unfortunate youth, the calamities of life to which all are subject, and the wants of age, drew not from them a tear of pity. They sat down in council, saying that *thief* must not be reclaimed, that future murderer must not be prevented from embruing his hands in blood—that prostitute must not be taken from her destructive course and wretched fate; let her go on to propagate contamination, allure youth to ruin, seduce other females, degrade her sex, and perish immaturally, guilty, friendless, and forlorn—that industrious man, starving with his family, shall not have employment—that aged parent may perish with hunger, and beggary be the lot of that infant brood; for are not WE the *Philanthropists* of the day? and what will be said, should another, and not we, remedy these evils? him therefore we must destroy. This, in solemn conclave, they resolved.

Having shewn the origin and motive for the attack, I shall only be able, here, to delineate its general character. They framed, for their purpose, an address, cool and insidious, false in every point, whether of assertion or implication, but plausible and crafty. It asserted little; and by *innuendoes* only its authors dared to attack my good name. This paper was said to be "enough to ruin the fairest character in the kingdom," and was for a time suspended: at length, in a general meeting of nine persons, Sir James Sanderson in the chair, the dreadful weapon was ordered to be let loose.

Nothing could have been so easy as to answer this paper, but it was not meant to be answered. It was issued in myriads; it covered the land like the ten plagues of Egypt, pervading the remotest villages of the kingdom. Not content with giving it to whoever came, it was crammed down the throat of the public. A multitude of messengers, besides the principals themselves, were employed in its distribution; not an area, an alley, or a chandler's shop, escaped. The agents of the Phoenix *Fire-office*, as their appropriate agents in every town in the kingdom, accompanied the addresses of the Philanthropic Society with a *firebrand* to destroy my good name, and the Island was agitated from North to South with the charges of the new managers against me. It was vain to combat this attack by argument, or oppose it with facts. The production was not a weapon of controversy, but an instrument of death, promulgating the name of philanthropy in characters of blood; it was not a literary contest, but a ruffian attack of a desperate body, resolved to exterminate a man who complained of their injustice, and who, they feared, would bring them to punishment. The voice of reason was drowned in the roaring of the tempest; reply was hurried down the torrent of popular

pular odium, unseen or unregarded; and I found it necessary to remain firm on the rock of my plan, till the storm was blown over, and the flood subsided.

I opposed this torrent, chiefly by persevering in my labours: my success furnished fresh fuel to malignancy; and after ceasing, several times, were these hurricanes again and again renewed; more libels, more libels, was the cry; "the *Philanthropic* press, in St. George's "Fields," was made permanent, like the guillotines of Robespierre, and groaned under the work of death.

In the very teeth of this attack, I raised a larger Establishment, and in less time than the former; and proved the important truth, that **ADULT CRIMINALS MAY BE RECLAIMED.** But, at length, undermined and shook to its base by conspiring enemies, **THAT INSTITUTION FELL,** and its enemies enjoyed a horrid triumph over the wreck of humanity. Good God! and was the sacred name of philanthropy, the garb of sanctity, the robe of religion, profaned to be the instruments of dashing the cup of relief from the lip of misery, of plunging the reclaimed criminal again into the pit of destruction? The depredations of common robbers, compared with this, are virtue. When they had thus destroyed the Asylum for Industry, their exultation was apparent. They announced it as having *failed*; and, out of one hundred and ten persons relieved and reformed, by them exposed to be replunged in ruin, they boasted of the mighty work of having received *two* children under their care. They were children whose grandmother they had starved to death, and whose fond industrious mother they turned out, friendless, solitary and weak from an Asylum, to the wide world, bereft of parent and of children by them.

In

In the interval between the fall of the Asylum for Industry, and the commencement of the British Settlement, I enjoyed a respite from persecution. The re-commencement of my public labours, was the signal for renewed hostilities. Strange situation, for men to feel the service of all mankind, the wish of every bosom, hateful and injurious to them!

Attempts to destroy the British Settlement.

THE attack on the British Settlement may be called the second Philanthropic War. All their old practices were renewed, and new ones devised. Numberless subscribers to the Asylum for Industry have declared that the Collectors of the Philanthropic Society called on them, saying, "they subscribed before to the wrong Society, which was all a swindling business, and that theirs was the right Society:" they received, accordingly, the contributions intended for the Asylum. Mr. Sudlow, shopkeeper, in the Strand, says, three Gentlemen, not Collectors, called upon him to caution him, not to subscribe any more to Mr. Young's plan. Lord Grosvenor* informed me, that Lord Belgrave had been very often spoken to of me to my injury, and even in the House of Commons, and urged not to continue his name to my plan. One of the Bankers acquainted me that application and interest, such as he could not wish to disoblige, had been made with their house to discontinue their names as Receivers, which he begged on that sole account to do, politely testifying at the same time his individual approbation of the plan. He also informed me that a scheme had been attempted, to

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* Then President of the British Settlement; Lord Belgrave and Lord Mount Edgumbe were Vice-Presidents.

engage *all the Bankers* of the Institution to concur in an advertisement or "public declaration," declining to receive for me. This scheme, which was afterwards imposed on the *Duke of Leeds* and others, was thus first tried with the *Bankers*, who had discernment and spirit to spurn at the offered insult.

Lord Mount Edgumbe acquainted me, that he had been numerous times written to and spoken to, to my injury. Lord Grosvenor told me he had received numberless applications, personal and by letter, intended to shake his opinion of me, and destroy his hopes in the plan.

Secret Attempt of the Sub-Committee.

HIS Lordship also informed me, "that Mr. Angerstein and Lieutenant-colonel Harnage, two members of the Philanthropic Committee, waited upon him, in form, as a Sub-committee, but secretly to represent me as a man undeserving support, and to urge his Lordship's secession from me." Mr. Angerstein and Lieutenant-colonel Harnage refused to meet ME at Lord Grosvenor's, on my demand. His Lordship, on full investigation, gave the most honourable testimony to my conduct, and did not withdraw his name.* Mr. Whitbread, who also had publicly born the most flattering testimony to my conduct, was again and again unceasingly assailed. I commenced an action for defamation against Mr. Angerstein and Lieutenant-colonel Harnage, but dropped it at the particular request of Lord Grosvenor.

At

* A year afterwards, his Lordship resigned, wearied with the instances made him; but renewed his testimony to me, and assured me of his readiness to concur, in future, should I succeed.

At the moment this *Sub-committee* was deputed to traduce me *in secret*, the *Committee* who sent them were shrinking from an issue to which I had *openly called them*; the *Sub-committee* fled, and hid themselves, when detected—the judge and umpire of their own choice condemned them—no triumph could be fairer, or more complete. Mr. Angerstein, to avoid meeting me, declared “he was not any longer on the Committee;” but his name has constantly appeared on it since. Lieutenant-colonel Harnage objected to meeting me “*alone*.” Poor man! he might have brought ALL his employers with him, if he chose.

The British Settlement was, to them, a more serious object of dread, even than the Asylum for Industry. The magnificence of its aspect threatened them with total eclipse; as it continued to advance, they marshalled all their force—they employed every stratagem: the Settlement was to be assailed at once by sap and by storm; and at length they prevailed on the Duke of Leeds himself to appear in arms at their head, with all his field officers, in a general assault. The enemy was beaten, driven to his entrenchments; nor did his Grace escape unhurt—he retired from the field, and left the Committee to carry on the war by themselves.

I shall detail these circumstances a little, and explain the allegory. The British Settlement was begun: a Superintendant and workmen were on the spot, and proceeding rapidly. The *Philanthropists* sent down a *spy*: as he had to pass through the village of Crawley, he spread there the calumny against me. He stopped at the Swan, at Pease-Pottage Gate, a public house opposite the land, where the Superintendant lodged: rather unfortunately, almost as soon as he sat down, and began his enquiries, the Superintendant came in to his dinner; and the *spy*, guessing

who he was, instantly got up, left his liquor and the money on the table, went out at the *back door*, got into a chaise from which he had alighted, and drove off. This *spy* I took, by the description, to be Mr. William Houlston, of Chancery-lane; and here we found that the enemy could not even look a *servant* of the British Settlement in the face.

The actual commencement of the Settlement, thus ascertained, prompted the new attack. They issued first a performance called a CAUTION, under pretence that I was defrauding the public and them of subscriptions, that were intended for the Reform in St. George's Fields.*

It is the style, evidently, of a police advertisement; it is compounded of falsehood, inuendo, and equivocation, and is throughout incongruous, contradictory, and vague. That my Collectors "solicit for the "continuation of the Philanthropic Society," is false. They solicit for the BRITISH SETTLEMENT, on Tilgate Forest, explained to be a continuation of the original plan of the Philanthropic Society, but fully distinguished from the Reform in St. George's Fields: nor does it accord with common sense, that my Collectors,

* *Philanthropic Society, St. George's Fields, Dec. 24th, 1794.*
A CAUTION.

Whereas several persons, calling themselves Collectors to Mr. ROBERT YOUNG (who is now confined in the Fleet Prison, and who was dismissed from the office of Treasurer of this Society, by reason of a *very great deficiency* in his accounts, *which he has acknowledged*, and for which he is now *under prosecution*) go about collecting and giving receipts for money, for "the Continuation of "the Philanthropic Society;" this is to caution the public in general, and the Subscribers to this Institution in particular, *to be upon their guard*, and not to pay any subscription intended for THIS INSTITUTION, to any person calling himself a Collector to this Society, except he shews his appointment, signed by several members of the General Committee.

Printed at the *Philanthropic Reform*, St. George's Fields.

lectors, with a plan of the British Settlement in their hands, would pretend they came for support to that despised dungeon in St. George's Fields, fit only for a place of punishment, as an appendage to the British Settlement.

That I was dismissed, &c. &c. the reader will see is the *poisoned dart*, of which the other parts of the Caution are the *cloak*; but it is *cunningly* put in a parenthesis, as if a mere accidental circumstance. Of the facts the reader will judge from the whole of this Report. That I was in the Fleet Prison is the only truth it contained; and I much question if any unfortunate prisoner those walls ever surrounded, has before been honoured with so general and assiduous a notification of his confinement to the world. But there never, before, had been a Philanthropic Society, the founder of which its usurpers sought to destroy. The inuendo that I was in the Fleet Prison at their prosecution, is a *falsehood*. Since, however, they assume a sort of swagger, and boast of the very idea of being the authors of my confinement, I will admit them that honour, not, indeed, in the character of *Prosecutors*, but in that of *Robbers* and *Assassins*: it was truly in consequence of their stealing my property and assassinating my good name, leaving upon me heavy debts incurred for the establishment of a public plan, which the public was by them prevented from reimbursing me. They had a suit against me in Chancery; I had previously commenced one against them in the Court of King's Bench: the merits of either it is not fitting to discuss here. My action frightened them; and they began theirs with the sole hope of embarrassing me, encouraged by Mr. Prichard, Solicitor to these *contentious Philanthropists*. Every art of the black-legged practitioner was tried: my Attorney was bought, and my Counsel left without briefs when they came to plead. The suit, however, is now at a period that, I believe, gives

gives them cause to regret its being instituted. A suit in Chancery, at the expence of the public fund, to settle a point which they had for four years been pressed to arbitrate, might answer Mr. *Prichard's* purpose ; but it was making the subscribers pay for being deprived of the right of judgment in *their own affairs*. The suit was an acknowledgment their cause was desperate before their Subscribers ; it was a forlorn hope, to try if any entanglements of law might afford them safety, or its delay procrastinate their punishment. Their trumpeting this about, as my being under their prosecution, men who even now run away from me, and who only commenced this suit to ward off a greater danger, is the exultation of a coward who has been frightened into a feat that surprises himself, and calls out to the by-standers, "Look at me." Of the malignancy of the purpose, and its littleness of mind, I leave the public to judge.

These "cautions" were distributed in the newspapers, in large posting-bills all over the town, and in small papers, the size of *Dr. Leake's bills*, but greatly inferior in style ; crammed into every house in the metropolis and the country, with the same unbounded profusion, and with no better success, than the first storm of libels levelled at me. Of these *little cautions* a second edition was issued, and distributed, under a pretence that I had gathered in all the former. The reiteration of these scandals, intended to confirm their effect, defeated it: it proved both malice and impotency, to the most superficial observer. Those blows must be feeble indeed that require to be repeated without end, and are yet without effect. The noise and insignificance of these people, at length, sunk them to the level of a scolding old woman ; and a phenomenon, most extraordinary, which I shall hereafter have occasion to describe, characterises the weakness of their malice, with the keenest satire, under the emblem

emblem, finely denoting imbecillity and folly, of an enraged goose pecking at the object of her fury. These cautions I answered by convening a meeting, both by advertisements, and by a posting-bill, as follows.

“ MEASURES

“ *For the restoration of the Philanthropic Society from the usurpation*
 “ *of Dr. James Sims, of Lawrence-lane, and other manifest im-*
 “ *postors, who have seized on it, and nearly accomplished its ruin,*
 “ *by Mr. Robert Young, founder, sole projector, and sole manager*
 “ *of the original design.*

“ The rapid and melancholy decay of this Institution being
 “ now notorious to the world, and the authors of this calamity,
 “ industrious in ill, being employed in other desperate attempts of
 “ unspeakable injury to the nation, a meeting, as well of those
 “ numerous original subscribers, who, from the abuses of the
 “ present management, have seceded, as of the present subscribers,
 “ who regard the interests of the community in this undertaking,
 “ is proposed to be held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill,
 “ on Thursday, the 29th of January, 1795, at twelve o'clock at
 “ noon, to prevent the threatened total destruction of a plan preg-
 “ nant with benefits to mankind. Mr. Young will solicit the
 “ candid attention of the meeting to a detail of transactions,
 “ without any example ; and will move for the dismissal of those
 “ unfit, unworthy, and unauthorised managers, who seek to be-
 “ reave the nation, the poor, and posterity, of a good beyond all
 “ price.”

The public did not fail to mark the different complexions of my “ Measures for the Restoration of the Society,” and their “ Caution.” They saw the one a wretched assassinating attack ; the other, an open accusation, a challenge given, a meeting called, and the hour fixed, to support it, in the face of the whole world : all London saw my triumph. But what availed it to defeat the hydra, and send him to his den ?—The monster must be chained before the victory can be complete.

My bills were placed all over London, as companions to theirs ; and I sent also circular invitations to
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the Duke of Leeds, and Members of the Philanthropic Society, and special notices to the parties I accused.

The *accused* absented themselves ; but it was the absence of *fear*, not *contempt*. They applied to the Court of Chancery for its protection.

I was informed, by my Counsel, that the Lord Chancellor, desired I would put off the meeting. This was impossible ; but I waved, in consequence, my proposed motion, and the recital I had prepared, much of which is the matter of this Report. And the meeting resolved, not without an opposition from a strong party of the friends of the accused,* whose pitiable efforts to save them, exposed them the more,

“ That Mr. Young having postponed his grounds of accusation against the persons mentioned in his notice for calling this meeting, or to propose any resolution pending an information carrying on in the Court of Chancery, this meeting do adjourn.”

Thus are my accusations now hung over their heads, by a vote of a general meeting.

It was an ample triumph to me to see them run crying to the Court of Chancery, to prevent a meeting of their own Subscribers, on the subject of their dispute with me.

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* Mr. Hoare came, it should seem, as the representative of Mr. Harman ; Mr. Kinnaid, as the deputy of Dr. James Sims, &c. &c. &c. Mr. Prichard, one of the accused, *came* too ! *He* came, not indeed to the meeting, but to the bar of the coffee-house. Why did not Mr. Prichard, of “ caution” memory, who attacked my character in bills and placards, in which only he is bold—who had received my notice that I would, at that meeting, accuse him of the most serious delinquency—why, were it only for the honour of his patrons, *as he came so far*, did he not adventure himself up stairs, to face me, like a man ? why *stop below*, and send the landlord to me, as his bully ?

The Caution, amongst other qualities, carries with it an insolence to the public, to which numbers tamely submit from its imposing aspect. " I am desired by " the Philanthropic Committee not to give—they " have the strings of my purse," is the language. It is, in effect, an authoritative command.

This insolence marks their conduct throughout. They affect to dictate law, and public contribution, at their will; and have established themselves an INQUISITORIAL TRIBUNAL, whose transactions are all in secret, and decisions final. An instance of this appears in Mr. Deey, their servant and convenient tool. This man, charged, before the magistrates of Bow-street, with excessive cruelty to his own son, they have, as it seems, wrested from justice. *His* character they have undertaken to protect, as they undertook to destroy *mine*, by their *fiat*. The HOLY PHILANTHROPIC INQUISITION acquit Mr. Deey—the public and the magistrates must submit.

From the equivocal conduct of the Duke of Leeds, I determined on a measure that should oblige his Grace to take a decided part. I proposed a plan of an united Committee—adding several high Officers of State as a grand Trust.

Fifty impressions only of this plan were struck off, and one sent to each of the parties, with two or three exceptions, and several additions, with a letter *requesting their assent*. Those who were *left out* of the plan saw that, if it succeeded, all was lost; and, as usual, they contrived to turn it to their account. They procured the following declaration to be executed. It is to be observed that, of *fifty-four* persons of rank and respectability in this plan, only *eighteen* were prevailed on to sign the protest.

PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.

St. George's Fields, 6th Day of March, 1795.

A PUBLIC DECLARATION.

“ Mr. Robert Young having, without our concurrence, inserted
 “ our names as the proposed President, Vice-President, and Com-
 “ mittee for the management and direction of an intended chari-
 “ table institution, called by him the British Settlement and Philan-
 “ thropic Society; we, the undersigned (being Members of the
 “ Philanthropic Society) hereby publicly declare, that we have no
 “ connexion with, or knowledge of, such an Institution; nor do we
 “ acknowledge any other charitable establishment under the name
 “ of the Philanthropic Society than that which was instituted in the
 “ year 1788, and is now carried on to a considerable extent in
 “ St. George's Fields, for the most beneficial purposes. We think
 “ it the more necessary to make this avowal, because we hold it
 “ incumbent on us to guard the public from believing that, under
 “ the sanction of our names, we support or countenance this plan
 “ of Mr. Young.

“ Leeds, Grosvenor, Aylesford, Bulkeley, Belgrave, Cremorne,
 “ Ph. Pusey, Jos. Andrews, G. Blackman, S. Bosanquet, J. Buckner,
 “ J. C. Lettison, Thos. Denham, T. Foster, Hen. Hoare, Thos.
 “ Palmer, Jas. Royer, R. Sloper.”

This formidable piece of artillery was played off with unceasing activity. “ Now,” several were heard to say, “ the British Settlement will be quashed.” I saw, on the contrary, with satisfaction, that my plan had succeeded, and that his Grace had taken his part. I let this attack go unnoticed till it was over; I was even charmed to see myself so honoured: twelve or fourteen repetitions in a paper, and every news-paper employed, for the purpose of informing the world that so many powerful and jealous rivals to my plan were afraid of my competition. At length I turned the declaration to my account as an acquittal, on its authority, of the “ deficiency,” which the declaration altogether forbears from. I answered it in the *Telegraph* of March 27th, and the *Morning Post* a few days after, to which I must refer. His Grace's sensations could not be pleasant; it was no pleasing task to me—it was here the Duke exposed his person in the field.

field. My answer proved the declaration futile, self-defeated, and FALSE, its attack on the British Settlement null, and its praise of the Reform my own. No defence appeared; his Grace was implicated, but none came to his aid. The "declaration" evaporated in air. What was to be done? The defeated and enraged enemy, determining at least to make a show of carrying on the war, returned again to the poor little "Caution" without an author or a name. The *marshalled* host disappeared, and they fired again from *ambush*; I scorned to answer it. It seemed like a *beaten boy* throwing *dirt* at his antagonist, after having run away under cover. I advertised ANOTHER MEETING and this REPORT, and the "CAUTION" appeared no more!

The Magistrates of the Police have been assailed, to induce them to stretch the law and break the peace, in aid of this confederacy. The conduct of some does them as little honour as it gained them success. They did their best; but magistracy itself, illegally exerted against the British Settlement, has been defeated in every attempt. Other magistrates have preserved their dignity, and that of their office, despised the insult offered them, and assured the Collectors of their protection. I hope the present excellent Chief Magistrate of the city will indulge me in the testimony I owe to his politeness, and his independent mind. The clerks to the Police Offices have been bribed; one of them, *Mr. Gliddon*, attorney, of Great Ormond-street, boasted that he was *paid* for interrupting my Collectors! A Magistrate of Hatton-Garden declared "a plan was laid to stop the British Settlement in every parish of the kingdom, and that it would be stopped." A *Mr. Gliddon* in every parish, no doubt, would be sought out to be *paid*, and these disbursements from the Philanthropic fund be placed to the account of secret service money

in carrying on the war. *Spies* are employed; men in my service paid to betray me: one whom I know to be in daily habits of visiting Mr. Prichard I still suffer about me, and have since done the wretch services. Two of my Collectors, about the latter end of May, called, not specially, but in course, upon Colonel Johnstone: he politely ushered them into his parlour, and said, "Gentlemen, the Duke of Leeds has *obliged* me to promise (and so he has all of us) that I would not subscribe; but, *nevertheless*, I think it a good thing, and you do well to go about." I ask the Colonel's pardon, but it would be criminal to keep from the public a document so important in my possession, as it was not confidential.

So vast a machinery of mischief never before was framed—yet amidst this scheme of ruin my spirit has not been dismayed; I have not quitted my post: Truth has been the rock of my support, and the protecting arm of Providence my shield. Deserted, in the hour of my greatest peril, as the stricken deer, even by the very friends who bore testimony to my wrongs; left defenceless to the fury of my enemies, whose numbers, rank, power and resources seemed to devote me to destruction inevitable; my view has been fixed immovably on the end of my pursuit: a majesty—a glory appeared to surround the distant goal—the waving light bid me advance, nor fear the dangers that menaced me on the road.

These efforts, this combination, that may truly be said to be unparalleled in atrocity and extent, have indeed impeded the British Settlement; but there is no reason to believe that they will finally succeed to crush it: on the contrary, every thing promises that they will terminate in a triumph to that Institution, glorious in proportion to the force with which it has been assailed.

Misconduct

Misconduct of the usurped Management.

HAVING thus sketched a faint outline of the immense and desperate efforts of the usurping managers to destroy the newly-rising branches of the plan, the competition of which they feared, let me shew how far those mischiefs find any apology in the extent of benefits procured to the public by them, in that branch on which they seized.

Great undertakings must be achieved by great exertions, and new designs accomplished by new means, changed as circumstances require. Contrary to these rules of universal reason, the invaders of this work have evinced minds bound down in the narrowest fetters of prejudice. An institution soaring above the forms of local charities, founded on higher truths, embracing the nation, and formed to remedy the evils of ignorance and blind custom, was chained in those errors from which the mischief sprang it was to correct, tried at the bar of that ignorance it combated, and became the victim of crimes it was intended to root out.

I shall shew first their *incompetency*, next their *monopoly*, and lastly the *fruits* of these to the nation and to themselves; and under this last division shall take occasion to say a few words in point to the calumny against myself.

Their *incompetency* appears *total*, and supervenes every department of their *constitution* and *plan*, their *finance*, and the actual state of the *Reform*.

In their constitution and laws we should expect to see the principles of the Reform, and the seeds of its executive agency, displayed with the pen of a master.

Here

Here should be the nucleus in which its future branches, ramifying to infinite purposes of good, should be disposed in order, and wrapt up with skill.

Look at their sixteen laws, and they will be found bad imitations of the rules of a parish charity-school in a country village, combined with an artful scheme of monopoly, which is the basis and burden of the whole.

Here is a Chaplain, who is "to instruct the children in religion and morals on a *Wednesday*."* Half an hour's cold precept in a week is to controul the strong propensities of a life of crime, and change early habits of vice into virtuous dispositions.

Here is a Superintendant, who is to have "power to regulate the whole conduct of the children;" but in what those regulations consist, from what principles they emanate, where he is to derive this power, or wisdom to direct it, all is darkness.

We are told "the commercial transactions of the Committee will be complicated and important, which a Committee *alone* cannot carry into effect; therefore that a Steward be appointed for their assistance, who shall be directed—to pay particular attention to the conduct of the Masters and Mistresses, *in keeping the children clean*." See Law 13. Thus the complicated and important commercial transactions that the Committee cannot manage by themselves, seem chiefly to consist in seeing that the allowance of soap and small-tooth combs be properly applied.

Here is a wretched attempt at talking about commerce that would disgrace a huckster of old iron: but of that moral reform that is the basis, essence, and

* See Law 9th.

and end of the Philanthropic Society; of the culture of the mind, of the strong practical influences that are to subdue rooted habits and reclaim criminals to virtue; of the novel energies of this system, that, in their explanation and in their fruits, acquired to *my* plan the national applause, *not even an attempt* to lay down the principles is made, not a syllable is mentioned, from beginning to end of that wretched far-rago, palmed on the world as the Laws and Constitution of the Philanthropic Society founded in the year 1788.

Let us advert, next, to their talent as *financiers*. They found in the treasury above £1100. in cash; and an income, that, in a regular ratio of increase, which was then going on, had arrived, from nothing, to above £5000. per annum, as the spontaneous tribute of public applause. They destroyed that spontaneous income. It ceased as soon as they circulated *their* Laws, Constitution, and Address. They became bankrupt, and kept up the existence of the Institution by begging from door to door. Nor did this long avail them; all the springs of philanthropy dried up at their touch; all the donatives of applauding reason retired from their call; credulity and delusion, alone, opened their purses; and they raised the passions of animosity, jealousy, and revenge, to supply the chasm that remained.

My Collectors, for the Asylum for Industry, outstripped and superseded theirs: they began, then, their system of libel; raised a sensation of resentment against me, and thus drew from pity what esteem denied: they found support in the storm they raised, and gloomily fed on the baneful passions they engendered; but still the Asylum for Industry advanced, and they declined. Fraud, added to defamation, became, then, their last resort. Their Collectors, with a brief in one hand

and a fire-brand in the other, represented the Asylum for Industry as a fraud, and theirs as the true Society; and the funds destined for the Asylum, they, by this fraud, received.

Thus, as *Financiers*, they are consistent: destitute of the power of commanding reason, or enlisting the heart on their side, destitute of public confidence and esteem; mendicancy, falsehood, and defamation, have been their instruments of finance, to *obtain* those funds *my* plans and *my* labours had *raised*.

Their incompetency as to any system of reforming corrupted minds has appeared in their laws—it will appear also in the fruits of those laws.

• Themselves have born testimony to “ boys, who
“ have been guilty of felonies, burglaries, and other
“ crimes, old in iniquity, becoming remarkable for
“ industry, decency, and obedience; all cheerful and
“ happy, scarcely ever guilty of profaneness, or even
“ *irregularity.*” *

These were the fruits of an original system of moral reform to them unknown; the credit of the work themselves claim—but the system they knew not how to keep up. Different fruits are now the produce of their management: incorrigible boys sent away with halters round their necks in disgrace (the disgrace was the managers, not the boys)—sent away to sea as to a *better* reform—running away—others, horrible to say, already trained to obedience, returning from these men’s protection to the gallows, and their last dying speech and confession proclaiming to the world, in dreadful cadence, what the nation is to expect from their Reform.

They

• See their Address, page 12.

They continue to publish that testimony of what the Reform *was*, and then impose, with the most criminal falsehood, upon benevolence: for those facts are *now* reversed, which they yet publish as the express ground of soliciting support—facts that *never* applied to them.

Of those unfortunates which they falsely enroll as “reformed, and sent back to their parents,” I can *name* those who are now again leagued with gangs of thieves. In sending boys to sea, they trench on the duty of the Marine Society, a valuable institution, established and defined; in putting others to service, on the Asylum for Female Orphans, and the Foundling. The original and peculiar plan of the Reform they have, not in one, but in every point, abandoned; making this Institution, once new in all its features, a miserable copy of the imperfections of others, or an invader and plagiarist upon their established purposes and well-earned fame.

A boy, named William Legg, ran away, some months ago, from the tyranny of the Reform: he had got work at a shoemaker's in Mary-le-bonne, lived in his master's house, by whom he was esteemed, and might have continued a good member of society: he was seized by the myrmidons of the Reform and a constable; taken to Bow-street, and, at the instance of Mr. Prichard, committed, as a runaway apprentice, to the prison in Coldbath Fields. The gallows will, not improbably, be the fate of this poor lad, doomed to perish by the protection of these *Philanthropists*.

When the Reform was such as, they say, completely answered their hopes, no wall incarcerated its objects; mental influences held them together in a stronger but an insensible tie: as soon as the *invaders* touched the machine, it fell into disorder, and they told the
E world

world "the reform was impossible to be effected without a high wall," though they had before declared that the same thing was completely accomplished without any wall whatever.

Up rises the wall—and lo, the Reform becomes a prison. See the *arcanum* of their system of mental improvement—brick and mortar their instruments of a moral government: admirable *wall*! which, they tell us, amongst other qualities, has the virtue of preserving the children whom it confines, "from the very *temptation* to wander." Why will they not communicate this secret for impregnating with similar influences the walls of all other prisons, for the benefit of suffering humanity over the globe? This *WALL*, they tell us, is no less than two thousand feet in circumference! fourteen feet high! including a carpenter's shop and gates; and it has cost one thousand eight hundred and seventy pounds ten shillings! the eighth wonder of the world!

When they had completed this *chef-d'œuvre* of their Reform, with conscious pride they invited the world "to come to St. George's Fields, and see"—the *wall*.

Their System of Monopoly.

ALTHOUGH, in the wretched jargon they denominate their laws, there is not a single feature of the Reform, industry is barely mentioned, and commerce has fallen into the washing-tub.* We see a scheme of monopoly formed with sedulous care to secure a perpetual government to the junto.

All

* See page 22.

All power is taken away from the Subscribers at large. The government is in the Committee law. No Subscriber can attend the mystic rites of this holy tribunal. Four times in a year is a meeting, where, as matter of favour, "any subscriber *may* attend," to ask a question, or suggest, if he does it *modestly*, "what may be of use." See page 6 of the Address.

Of the Committee a considerable part are mere appendages to the *Cabinet*, and there are several subordinate offices in aid of the scheme. It is provided, in the third law, that six members go out every year, by rotation, from the top of the list, and that six new ones be added at the bottom; obnoxious or indifferent members go out faithfully; but when any of the *Cabinet* find themselves at the top of the list, in rotation to go out, *out they go*, according to this law, but *in they come again* immediately, at the bottom of the list, as *new* members.

Sometimes, indeed, they change offices, as Auditors of Accounts or Visitors; but, in this rotatory *vacation*, they merely *revolve*, either in the lucid orb of the Committee itself, or in the vortex of some satellite dignity, immovable from the grand sphere, whose gravitating centre is the all-attractive focus of the funds.

In Law the 12th a *Treasurer* is appointed, and his duty defined; but it will be found that he is a *nominal* Treasurer only: that the *real Lords of the Philanthropic Treasury* are the members of this *perpetual Committee*. But as the *name* of Treasurer might be a ground of jealousy, they made a nugatory officer under the name. He is only to *keep an account* of money "that *passes through* his hands;" he is not to *keep any money*; it is to pass "through his hands" as *through a conduit pipe*; he is not allowed to *hold* a shilling longer than

than two days. If a Banker, *as a Banker* he may hold monies; but he is to *pay no bills*, not so much, as for a pound of soap to wash the children's hands; (a fine Treasurer this!) "*but that all bills be paid by the* " COMMITTEE, who shall give draughts on the " Treasurer *for the same*, which draughts, if the Treasurer should be himself a banker, shall be countersigned by him as a *warrant or authority* for the receiving bankers to pay *him the Treasurer* the sum required:" but *he* is not to pay the bills with it—no, he is to run post to the *Committee* with the money, that is, to the Chairman and any two others; for instance, Dr. James Sims, Mr. Houlston, and Lieutenant-colonel Harnage.

That no Receivers shall be appointed but such as the *Committee* think proper.

Now it is plain that all the money transactions are done by the Committee; that is, by those of them who act; that is, again, by these members *in perpetuo*. These are *virtual Treasurers*, but have thrown out "a tub to the whale," in the shape, or rather in the name, for it has nothing of the shape of Treasurer.

Let us now attend a little to their law of accounts, and their observance of it. In Law the fifth it is said that three Auditors of Accounts shall be appointed for every year, and *chosen from the Subscribers at large*. Does it accord with this, to have Auditors of Accounts one year chosen out of the Committee, another year returned to the Committee again, a third year to figure amongst those officers denominated Visitors—thus interchanging places in the Commonwealth, but still, like the shades of departed ghosts, hovering around the object of their delights, and watchfully careful not to suffer the labours and burdens of the Reform to fall amongst strangers?

Manceuvres

Manceuvres of this sort, were I to examine critically, would afford no little matter of speculation. The Auditors of Accounts are either *themselves*, or *good-natured* men, who will not take much trouble. But suppose impertinent visitors should attend their meetings, there might be danger. This their wisdom has guarded against—they have ordered, see Law 5th, that the Secretary shall attend the Auditors of Accounts *wherever they please*; keep the Auditors in *good humour*, by all means; and, therefore, let them not only meet here or there, as suits their conveniency, and where nobody else may know of the business; but further, to prevent any officious interference of *improper persons*, who might *find out* the *retirement* of the Auditors, they positively ordain that these meetings “shall not be open to *other* Subscribers”—none but the chosen men. But if these accounts were *revised* by troublesome people, afterwards, there might be difficulties. See then the profound wisdom of these legislators: what was Solon, or Lycurgus, to them? Provident against dangers, they have *enacted* that an “*abstract*” only, not the *detail*, so audited, and signed by them, shall be laid before the next general quarterly meeting; so that the MEETING cannot, and is not allowed to *inspect particulars*. But suppose again, that the meeting should *hesitate, deliberate, doubt*, what is to be done? Why, if there are no proofs, and care is taken there shall be none, for impeaching the accounts, they must agree to them; for what says the Constitution? “That the *abstract* of the accounts laid before the general quarterly meeting “shall be there finally settled.” Mark the expression, *shall* be, not *may* be. *Shall* be—what? Not investigated and examined, but *settled*; not settled for that day, but *finally*, and for ever settled, never to be revised or inspected more. You see every word has weight, every letter has meaning—never was prudence more happily displayed.

Never indeed was that talent, sometimes mistaken for ability, properly termed cunning, more conspicuous. Not to do good, but to conceal the bad; not to be open, but to make disguise appear so; not science or useful talents, but a ridiculous affectation of them, characterise every line of these stupid, yet these crafty laws: they seem dictated by a sort of inferior instinct, such as certain brute animals possess, without one solitary trait of a capacious mind, of knowledge of business, of honesty, or of truth.

Mark the finishing stroke of this climax of cunning:* lest the real darkness of the management of the funds, notwithstanding its affected openness, should raise discontent in any, we are told, "that, for
" the *just and faithful appropriation* of the sums
" which may be contributed, a number of *Noblemen*
" and *Gentlemen* have pledged themselves by accept-
" ing the offices, and acting as the Committee of the
" Society."

The words are in italics, to make them more impressive. Now who had *doubted* the just and faithful appropriation of any sums which Messrs. Prichard, &c. should receive? And why call *Noblemen* and *Gentlemen* thus prominently into view?—was not their general patronage enough?—All experience proves that guilt has one infallible mark, an anxious solicitude to appear innocent. A rogue is discovered by unnecessary protestations of honesty; and there is always a trick at bottom, where fairness and openness are pretended with an earnestness and parade for which no cause appears.

It is plain the Cabinet Managers, who *act*, distinguish themselves from the Noblemen and from the Gentlemen—who are *pledges* for the others fidelity.

Those

* See the Address, page 14.

Those Noblemen and Gentlemen, however, have not pledged themselves to any such thing as these men say; and they do not "act as the Committee," unless as they are *led*. Thus, with a lie in their mouths, they promulgate their own conscious unworthiness of trust, and evince the dishonesty of their proceedings by the falsity of their offered pledge. Since, however, those Noblemen and Gentlemen have submitted to be offered as a pledge, they are answerable; and to them are the public to look, when, by and by, that pledge shall appear to be forfeited!

For the wisdom and energy of the executive government, no pledge, however, is offered; nor does any responsibility appear. Each manager shrinks from the weight—they resolve *themselves* into a *General Meeting*, vote *themselves* thanks; and all responsibility, for effecting the purpose of the Institution, vanishes in air, frittered away on the long list of non-subscribers, whom they publish as members of their Society, long after they have withdrawn in disgust. Exquisite craft! thus they seek to shift their crimes upon a mutable and unknown body, which they reward for supporting their delinquency, with the load of their disgrace.

There is one fact more, to which I beg the attention of the Subscribers to these men.

In the first edition of their Address, that prefaced their Laws, covered with red paper—the public were told in the last paragraph but one, in a short, but emphatical, period: "*The proceedings are all open.*" But in the same book, Law the 5th says, that the meeting of the three *chosen* Auditors, to audit the accounts, "shall NOT BE OPEN to other Subscribers."

Even their Committee meetings are *not open* to other Subscribers—all is dark and inscrutable.

In

In the next edition, therefore, the above *dangerous* period was *left out*, the end being answered, and the power secure. They modestly forbear to tell the world any longer—that *their proceedings are at all open.*

Fruits of the Usurpation.

It may now be seen how the *heart* of man betrays its ruling passion through the most laboured disguise. How studied, how cold, how incoherent, how ridiculous their borrowed efforts to display their philanthropy, their piety, their patriotism, and their science! It is in framing a system of monopoly, covering it with an artful disguise, and guarding it by outworks of ostentatious chicane, that they appear at home; here they display talent that is their own; here, as to its centre, their purpose tends.

Through what a mazy path of guilt, and horror, and ruin, have envy, pride, and covetousness, pursued their purpose! The clue is at length unravelled—the veil torn off—the darkness fled—and the iniquitous source of so much evil stands confessed to the world.

During five years I have marked their proceedings with a steady eye, and saw the catastrophe approach with unerring steps, that I had from the first predicted. I saw every spring of the machine they seized paralyzed by the repellent powers of contrary springs that govern their conduct. I saw a thousand movements in unison, producing their harmonic effects, seized in the clumsy grasp of gothic ignorance; the finer mechanism crushed, and the larger wheels continuing their revolution from the momentum of the first impulse, and fictitious aids, to delude, for a time, till the failure

failure of every promise, at length discovered the cheat to the indignant world.

We are told (see the Address, page 14) "That for the just and faithful appropriation of their funds several Noblemen and Gentlemen have *pledged* themselves." Let us examine their expenditure and its fruits by their own Reports; but we tread on holy ground: they tell us "the advantages they produce to the public are almost above calculation, and we are not to appreciate their cost by any" narrow-minded "arithmetical estimate." Report, page 94. With awe and reverence be it then, that, for a moment, we trench on the *inquisitorial injunction*, and examine these mystic accounts by vulgar arithmetic.

1. They have destroyed, almost altogether, an increasing income of spontaneous public favour, raised by me from nothing, that had attained to above £5000 per annum; in the place of which, by begging from door to door, on the credit of *my* labours, by sermons, and defrauding other funds with the most gross falsehoods, they have raised only about £4000 a year, in five years succeeding.

2. Instead of six hundred children, which, at least, ought to have been now the proportion, they have only one hundred and twenty-six; four hundred and seventy-four less than the actual rate of increase they stopped.

3. The earnings of the children, the first year, under *my* care, were a shilling, and some eighteen pence a day—two years afterwards, under the *usurpers*, it is sixpence a day, (see Report for 1792); and in the year 1794 the *progression* goes on to about threepence a day.

F

4. The

4. The moral Reform was, under my care, testified by themselves to be complete, a year, only, after the children came from St. Giles's or a gaol. (See their Address, page 11). They have now sent *their* worst boys away, and the rest are a nuisance to the neighbourhood.

5. Public esteem, under my conduct, had spread to all extremities of the kingdom; public contempt now treads on the heels of its expiring fame to the same remote parts.

6. The main pillar of the fabric of MY REFORM is SELF-SUPPORT. They abandon the attempt, and propose *only* "to lessen the expence of the Institution by its labours."

7. As a proof of the *sincerity* of even this pitiful promise, they broke up the carpenter's and bricklayer's trades, with buildings in contemplation, or in act, that have already cost above £6500. and which they propose to increase, although the boys they parted from, who had already learned those trades, were competent to all the work of those buildings,

8. They ultimately abandon even the promise of making the labour of the children, many of them now grown to men, "diminish the expences of the institution;" and confidently tell the world, (see their last Report), "that from the very nature of the institution (viz. to cultivate industry and morals) its expences," instead of being, as they first promised, *diminished*, "must EXCEED those of most public charities!!!"

9. After expending £.1800 on their "high wall," and condemning other institutions for withdrawing their protection from their objects at an early period, we

find that of two hundred and sixteen children, the total number received, only one hundred and twenty-six are permitted to enjoy the guardian virtues of this sympathetic wall. Ninety are excluded; and many, even of the *younger*, confessedly sent to all the mischiefs they deplore in other institutions; others, still worse, sent back, as "reformed," to those very criminal parents, "absolutely to exclude them from all connexion with whom" this wondrous wall was built!

11. "*Reformed* and sent back to their parents!" Miserable trick! which the grossest ignorance must detect. Thus, instead of cherishing a rising race of virtuous citizens amongst the poor, whose examples through life should extend and operate widely around them—the Reform is become a charm, an *ignis fatuus*, a mechanical process; a trade, like bleaching linen, or washing clothes, that are sent back, to be fouled again; a sort of mill for grinding children good—they pass through the hopper, the *honest* miller gets his money—and the "reformed child" is sent back, soon to be the subject of a new job. One of these poor lads, of whose name I am in possession, *ground honest* in the reform mill in St. George's Fields, is now again in company with a gang of thieves: there can be little doubt of the rest.

11. It is impossible not to admire their *parental solicitude*, in the reason they assign for discontinuing the bricklayer's trade—*amiable Philanthropists!* "for fear the boys should go into a public house, whereby their morals (poor things!) would be greatly endangered." But, in a few lines, we are told that a number of the *younger children of both sexes* are sent one hundred miles off to a large manufacturing town, the very sink of debauchery, "because their labour would be of little profit to the institution:" they may go to Nottingham, to St. Giles's, or the devil.

Thus do they torture pretences and coin maxims for every purpose.—Oh! 'tis nauseating to see their hypocritical cant of humanity and religion thus interlarding their insufferable farrago of falsehood, contradiction, and nonsense.

12. Conscious of the enormity of their expence, in their Report of the year 1792, they explain away one half, as for expences peculiar to a labouring institution, allowing *no return for the labour*, and the other half only to be a fair comparison with other establishments, and promise great retrenchments in their own. In their Report of 1794, they also confess extravagance, and promise retrenchment; they then stipulate for future extravagance, when all possible retrenchment shall be made; the expences, they say, even then, must be greater than those of other institutions. Thus is the Philanthropic Reform avowedly saddled on the nation, as the most burdensome establishment it supports.

13. One cannot but remark a few of their items of expence. There is £906. 1s. 11d. for wages in superintending the labour, which, altogether, is only worth £516. 4s. 8d. In the year 1792 they promised that the rent, then £360. 7s. 2d. would be *reduced* to less than £100, when the Reform should be removed to the new buildings; in 1794 the Reform is in the new buildings, which have cost £6500, and the rent this year is *increased* to £516. 4s. 8d. There is £465. 6s. 8d. for printing advertisements and Collectors; although, five years before, I raised a much larger sum without a single Collector. There is £143. 13s. 7d. for *alterations and repairs* of buildings quite *new and unfinished*. There are £159. 9s. 4d. for *law* expences for this *most Philanthropic* Society. For workshops, in which *four petty* trades are carried on, and eighty-four boys employed, £2338. 18s. For a *wall* to keep

keep out spectators, £1870. 10s. For the residence of one hundred and twenty-six children, and their instructors, £1829. 8s. 7d. For merely raising and levelling the ground, and some drains, £483. 7s. 10d. Total for buildings, £6522. 4s. 5d. yet £516. 4s. 8d. per annum for rent. The whole expence attached to the children, as an annual expenditure, is £4531. 5s. their worth in labour, £573. 5s. 9d. that is, £4531. 5s. a year, the expence of a machine to earn £573. 5s. 9d. Their earnings, taking the average number at one hundred and forty, during the year, is four pounds a year, or about threepence a day; and each costs eight times more than he earns, in the *sixth year* of the institution. They place amongst their temporary *unavoidable* expenditures, their contest with me, though I have offered four years ago, and a hundred times over, to decide the dispute by arbitration, *without a shilling expence*. Such an account, its enormity, the falsehood, and the insolence of its defence, are without any parallel.

15. They alledge that the benefits of the institution are almost beyond calculation; and, therefore, to save the trouble of future *excuses* or *accounts*, flatly say that the cost is not to be considered, (see Report for 1794). But may we not ask, where these wondrous benefits are to be found? What is the sum total of that MORAL REFORM which they offer to the world on the terms of an expence not to be investigated or restricted? In seven years 216 children *received*. In the Reform, December 31, 1794, remain 126. Placed out in service or apprenticed, 12; sent to sea, 17; reformed and sent back to their parents, 12; dead, 2; NOT any ways ACCOUNTED FOR, 47!!!

The Marine Society, whose established province it is to provide for destitute children at *sea*, and other institutions that place children *apprentice*, do not deem those

those as benefits "above calculation." The sending children back to their criminal *parents*, will not be admitted as such. The children remaining *in the Re-form*, if we estimate their *other* virtues at the standard of their *industry*, the only profitable quality, the rest may be *calculated*, but not at above another three-pence a day value to any body. *Where*, then, are we to look for these boasted "incalculable benefits," but amongst the *forty-seven poor children missing*? The *mystery* which attaches to their fate is, at present, inscrutable, and the *benefit* of it literally "incalculable," and not to be appreciated by any arithmetical estimate." I fear, when the *children* shall be found, the *benefits* will be lost. We must not forget that Deey is their Secretary still.*

There is in this circumstance something awful, that baffles conjecture: here is a sickening parade of humanity, religion, and public good. Here have been above thirty thousand pounds expended; 41 children sent to sea, or apprentice, or to the gallows; 126, after six years of reform, a pest to the neighbourhood, and earning only the daily gains of infant beggars; and 47 not deemed worth accounting for, nor even an hypocritical tear shed over their memory.—To what extremes of vice and folly does these men's blindness carry them, under the hope that the name of the Duke of Leeds will bear them through? It appears to me the culprits ought to answer at the bar of a court of justice; and I pledge myself to the public they shall do so.

15. There is a studied perplexity on the face of their accounts, and they seem to have confused themselves, as they meant to confuse others. They state their total of disbursements for the year 1794, in one sum, at £5282. 17s. 2d. independent of above

£6500

* See his cruelty to his own son, page 17.

£6500 for buildings. They then give the same disbursements under two heads, one of expenditure, £4531. 5s. the other, of materials for trade, £1570. 15s. 4d. making thus another total of the same disbursements, £6102. 0s. 4d. exceeding the former total by £397. 3s. 2d. by which sum, therefore, two parts of their own Report contradict each other. Whichever of them is right, the other is wrong; consequently the balance, for each account is made to balance, is also wrong; and thus their Report is self-detected to be false in a sum of above £800, independent of the enormous and extraordinary items above pointed out.

17. From this examination of their own Report there result—

1. That they have avowedly abandoned one of two chief objects of the Reform, its SELF-SUPPORT—resorting to a promise of only *diminished expenditure*, by labour.

2. That they have, next, avowedly abandoned *that* promise, and declared that the expences are to be *increased*, instead of diminished by labour, and to be greater than in other establishments, where no labour is done,

3. That they have *totally failed* in every promise of moral reform, and abandoned their own declared “peculiar characteristic,” keeping their *élèves* under their protection to a mature age; and have shewn a *total unconcern* and *utter inattention* to the children under their care, in there being 47 missing, unaccounted for.

4. That

4. That no plan, system, or attempts whatever, for culture of the mind, exist amongst them.

5. That every purpose of public good, in this reform, is totally lost; that the whole aim and study of the usurpers is the monopoly of its conduct. This appears in the frame of their laws; in enormous expences; in insolent stipulations to be exempted from enquiry or controul; in the confusion of their accounts, which, in giving the lie to themselves, prove the whole to be a fabrication, for those purposes of their own, for which alone this establishment now exists.

Such, on a full and fair enquiry, appear to be the grounds of their claim to waste annual thousands without account, to murder characters, establish the Roberespierian reign of terror under the mask of philanthropy, and lord it over the voluntary bounty of an injured and insulted nation.

Mr. Young's Defence.

I SHOULD hope that every word of this Report is my Defence. But how shall I set about to answer a charge unintelligible and undefined? "A deficiency in my accounts," what does this mean? What is the nature of the crime, and what its amount? Of what law is it a violation? of what compact a breach? A deficiency in accounts—why then accounts only are wanting.

Every criminal charge should express fully the *act* and the *intent*. Here is neither culpable act nor culpable intent so much as hinted at: where then shall I find the accusation I am to *refute*? * I find it in the meaning the *world* has given this unmeaning charge. They understand it to be a charge of embezzlement; to which I plead *not guilty*.

* In the characters of *Accusers*, they have subverted every principle and rule of law, as in every other character they assume, they subvert all known principles and rules.

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The pretended proofs adduced are three; the report of Bromley, Gregory, and Ball, Clifford's Report, and my own falsely-alleged acknowledgment.

The Report of Bromley, &c. assisted by Sims, is a FABRICATION: will they meet me on that charge? Clifford's Report contradicts Bromley's and itself. I need no advocate but themselves: give me their writings; every line refutes the foregoing, is refuted by the following; give me to confront them; their gloomy countenances—their silence speaks their guilt.

Bromley's Report makes a deficiency; Clifford's (and how was his Report obtained?) produces the deficient account! Clifford, with a sagacity worthy of those by whom he was suborned, gravely pronounces that he believes that deficiency to be real, which he himself supplied. Clifford's Report is published in the *True Briton*, of August 10, 1795, authenticated by the signature J. Grindley: the account it produces is also garbled, to disguise a material fact of time; but by their own acknowledgement they have been above two years in possession of the alleged deficient account, which they dare not attempt to disannul, and which they deny to exist in the face of that blushing day which has seen its production, *under their own hand*. * "My acknowledgement." Acknowledgement, forbidden as it is by our law, can only relate to secret transactions, of which proofs are wanting. What have acknowledgement or confession to do with transactions in the face of day, open to all men's inspection, but that these manufacturers of darkness seek to throw a curtain over the sun? Is it then true that I acknowledged myself a robber of my own fund? So far from it, the "examination," as they call it, the execrable attempt of the arch-jesuit, disguised in the character of a friend, to ensnare me, states, "that I had materially injured myself by sacrifices in the establishment of the Society." Thus the very proof they bring acquits me, and shows me the benefactor, not the robber of the Society.

All that was done, I did. Whatever crime attaches to the management I proudly claim as mine; I will allow *them* no participation. Hear then their own definition of my crime. "The institution was essential to the welfare and prosperity of the nation. It was never before so much as projected; it com-

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pletely

* This fact is decisive, as to the *literal* charge of "deficient accounts." As to the *intended* charge of embezzlement, it is equally decisive that the accounts then by themselves produced complete, have never been, in one point, contested; moreover, that my expenditure, compared with the progress made in the creation of an establishment, is the *least* upon record. In nearly *two years* only about £3400, and a hundred children received; and it was asserted by Mr. Whitbread, at two General Meetings, and uncontroverted, that this work was worth TEN or TWELVE THOUSAND POUNDS.

“ pletely answered *their* hopes. Thieves and profligates were “ wholly reformed, subordination and happiness reigned, and “ even irregularity was banished:” * advantages above calculation.† How, then, in performing labours so great, and raising, myself, the funds for my supply, did I work with my left hand, and filch with my right? Did I rob where all was mine? What is the consumption, what the enormous waste, that bespeaks so mad, so improbable a plunder? Hear, base calumniators, assassins of the character you can never earn, *my* expences required not the excuse for infancy the *first* year, which *you* make the *sixth*. Mine, even *then*, were not “ greater than “ those of other establishments;” ‡ they were less. That is, the produce of my funds were greater than any other—the produce of *yours*, you confess, are less. On what principle then, or by what logic do you argue, that I *abridged* those funds by speculation, which I *increased* in produce; that you are faithful, and œconomists § of monies which you expend in secret, write off by thousands, and for which you *produce nothing* but a *melancholy blight*, of a harvest fruitful and ripened to your hands? How then does your besotted charge revolt on yourselves? Were I criminal, how much more are you? Am I innocent, you have no possible escape. Was it to be expected, after you had stolen a plan, that you would spare its funds?

CONCLUSION.

VIEW then the dæmonic conduct of the invaders of this work: devastating through jealousy the rising harvest of the Reform around them, and, by unnumbered abuses consuming the boundaries they possess, they threaten to extirpate the fair system, and leave no vestige of what this plan once was, on the face of the earth. Enthroned on darkness, in the labyrinth of their “Constitution,” as evil magicians, they sit contriving mischiefs. The name of the Philanthropic Society, their stolen talisman, they pervert its powers to their baneful views. They have kindled the flames of jealousy through the nation; raised anger in bosoms before only alive to kindness;

* See their Address.

† Report, 1794.

‡ See their Report, 1794.

§ See their Building Address.

kindness; begotten doubt where confidence resided; raised a storm where all was calm; spread thick gloom where light had pervaded; because in darkness, in a storm, and in the vengeful passions, alone, they could hope to accomplish their designs. But blind to the consequences of their conduct, putting a spell on the benevolence of the nation to destroy the merit they feared, themselves are the first to suffer. The public, outraged, at length opens its eyes; and truth, like the joyful rays of the sun smiling on the world, after long hurricanes and clouds, beams out from under the veil of falsehood and mystery which had obscured its rays.

After having developed this motley system, made up, from beginning to end, of trick, low cunning, wretched manœuvre, and flimsy disguise; a web wove of criminality and craft; can men of business, or of the world, judging of human action by the most candid and liberal rules, entertain a doubt of the motives from which it has sprung?

When, indeed, did the love of this reform take root in their breasts? Not till enriched with ample funds, and crowned with blushing honours, did their hearts yearn towards it—the fruits of their conduct have manifested its source. Originating in self, in self every thing centered; founded in dishonesty, every step was fraud; engendered in darkness, every action was disguise; begot by ignorance, every succeeding moment was marked with folly; dilapidation, ruin, and contempt, have nearly closed the scene.

I trust the foregoing facts will rescue *me* from blame for the delay and mischiefs that *others* have occasioned. They will acquit me of being the fomentor of a dispute which has outraged decency and the nation; and prove that the circumstances of this great

work have imposed on me the duty of its defence, which duty, to the utmost of my power, I have endeavoured to fulfill. I trust they will remove the danger to the Reform, by shaking off the DISEASE which has fastened upon it; and that the Philanthropic Society, restored to its genuine principles, instead of being debased to the gloomy, murderous tyrant, fearing a competitor in a child, may become the prolific and beneficent parent of reform, for the outcast poor, all over the globe. Although I have employed some time in exposing a conduct already sunk into contempt, these details will not be useless; more especially as there are, in the Philanthropic Committee, persons who, individually, are not only highly respectable in the eyes of the world, but, I hope, also, of real integrity and honour. They will serve as an important lesson to teach how such may become the dupes of a political depravity, when linked with bad, but artful, men, who practice on their credulity, vanity, and pride, till they insensibly become parties, and are led on, by imperceptible degrees, to lengths, at which, viewed through an impartial medium, their better judgments and their hearts would revolt. They may show, further, how a general good character, artfully obtained by an ostentatious parade of certain moral duties, is often made a cloak for indulging, with impunity, in some darling vice; they will overthrow the maxim as impudently imposed on the common sense of mankind, as unaccountably admitted by numbers, that sanction, names, and rank, however duped or misapplied in the hands of the most infamous of men, are to supersede all the rules of law, all the barriers of justice, all the forms of evidence, in matters that involve all that is dear to men—character, property, the rights of invention, all that protects and rewards science and genius; and that the door of enquiry is to be shut, because a well-meaning peer is misled by vile adulators who surround him,

inflame his passions, and shut up every avenue to truth from his mind.

Although general character goes for nothing against legitimate evidence to particular facts, yet, as my character is attempted to be impeached, on a general appeal to that of the Duke of Leeds, I desire it to be understood that I challenge the Duke of Leeds himself, much as I respect his fair fame, and his amiable qualities, which I myself have witnessed, that my character in life, after a trial few men have experienced, is as irreproachable as his own; more than the leading instruments and actors in the conduct his Grace has espoused, can say of themselves.

I challenge his Grace to the issue that all the details of this Report are true; and I, again, request his Grace to convene, himself, a meeting; where, with a solemnity worthy so deep a stake of interest to mankind, and character to individuals, as are here at issue, I may maintain and confirm my own vindication, and the charges I have adduced; in failure of which, that vindication and those charges must, by every rule of *reason, justice, and law*, be confirmed.

Finally, I am most desirous, if possible, that in my case a legal decision might protect all similar inventions and works from the usurpation of those who may be called in, by the projector, to his aid. But, the advocate of the outcast and miserable, I have found no advocate myself; nor have been able to learn in what way the law might be brought to my redress, for an invasion of my whole life's labours, those labours done under the form and circumstances I had given to mine. There existed, to a legal process, another difficulty, which I hope this Report will remove. The outcry created against me was the most vindictive and most general that almost ever bore down a marked individual.

individual. My opponents had engendered a giant prejudice that stalked through the land, swallowed up the public opinion, and left me not a remote corner of the kingdom as an asylum, free from his obloquy. His breath obscured all the avenues of justice. Where could I find a Counsel hearty to plead my cause, a Judge he had not persuaded of my crime, or a Jury he had not made my foe? A legal decision against me, through means of this prejudice, would have confirmed it, and sealed my reproach for ever. My enemy, with all his advantages on his side, feared the trial: from arbitration he shrunk back; and, taking the law into his own hand, fell upon me, with ruffian fury. Not to try a suit, but to murder a character, has been a four-years labour, in vain. Was I then, whilst sinking under his blows, to wait redress from the forms of law, the channels of which might be diverted to his side, and not stand on my defence? No—the law allows of self-defence, and this Report is self-defence against an attack that menaces my life. The Philistine armed in mail I have been compelled to combat with a sling and a stone; I have been compelled to fight him on the ground where he chose to attack me, the ground of public opinion. He has appealed to it by assertion, and pleading sanction, proudly demanded confidence; I have appealed to it by explanations and facts; and, claiming no confidence, I declare my readiness to submit to any legitimate form of trial. In this Report I combat the giant prejudice, and pave the way for a fair and impartial trial on equal grounds. Having refuted the calumny that was meant to supersede all verdict, a Court will no longer prejudge the cause, and we may meet on equal terms.

When it is considered how immense have been the exertions for my destruction, that I am defending all that can be dear to man—the labours of my life, and the

the fond enthusiastic hopes cherished through years of toil, and just matured;—the hopes of the nation in this plan; I, its projector, may be allowed to see and feel as none but those in a similar situation can: it will be allowed the warmth of colouring I may have adopted, arose inevitably from the fervour of my mind. Could I counterpoise so much strength of party, but by strength of language? Could I defend so many interests with tame and feeble narrations? and could I, but with glowing indignation, recite wrongs and turpitude so great? 'Tis impossible. The subject calls up the sensations as inevitably as any cause produces its effect. If those who have aimed at the ruin of my good name should find the shafts recoil upon themselves, I calumniate not; no doubt many, acting responsible parts, have been deceived; all are free to vindicate themselves; I invite them to accept the privilege they refused to me; and justice demands that the system of traduction cease, enquiry succeed. Such is my Report; such, if it needs apology, is my apology; and to the judgment of my country and its laws, I submissively bow.

Robert Young.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since writing the above, there has been committed, on two Collectors of the British Settlement, by the Philanthropic Usurpers, dictating to, and directing, the magisterial functions tamely surrendered to their hands, an outrage so daring and flagitious, so characteristic of this inquisitorial tribunal, this anomalous and unknown confederacy, assuming every shape, acting every character, and arrogating all functions to support a monstrous system of public peculation, that it must necessarily be the subject of a new and most important Report.

FINIS.

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Robert F. Kennedy

POSTSCRIPT

Since writing the above, there has been a significant change in the British Government's attitude towards the African continent, and this is a welcome development. The British Government has now announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from the African continent, and this is a step in the right direction. It is hoped that the British Government will continue to work for the peace and stability of the African continent, and that it will continue to support the African people in their struggle for freedom and independence.

FINIS

